



Get ready for the launch of a new statewide disaster volunteer management tool!

The Department of State Health Services' Community Preparedness Section is moving forward with the implementation of the federally mandated Emergency Systems for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) Program.

Testing of the system, which will be called the Texas Disaster Volunteer Registry, is scheduled to begin in January 2008 and will include recruitment efforts with key medical partners, including Texas licensing and regulatory boards and professional groups such as the Texas Medical Association, Texas Nurses Association, and the Texas Pharmacy Association. Recruitment efforts will include placing the Registry's icon (see above) as a link to the Registry on partners' Web sites and utilizing partners' existing communication channels (newsletters, conferences, exhibits, etc.) to share information about the Registry and the need for volunteers.

Per federal guidelines, the Registry must provide the following:

1. pre-registration of medical and healthcare volunteers;
2. verification of professional licensure;
3. credentialing and, for NIMs compliance, resource typing of volunteers.

Texas customizations include the following:

- the Registry will provide a volunteer management tool for locals;
- the Registry will include lay individuals to support medical professionals;
- the Registry will assist with building ranks of local volunteers.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Belinda Hare, State Disaster Volunteer Coordinator, Community Preparedness Section, phone (512) 458-7219, or via e-mail, Belinda.Hare@dshs.state.tx.us.